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CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS DIVISION: SUMMARIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES

Willis Tate

Environmental Protection Agency
Seattle, Washington

March 1973

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REGION X

CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

SUMMARIES OF

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES

Prepared by
Willis Tate
Staff Assistant
Categorical Programs Division
Environmental Protection Agency, Region X
Seattle, Washington

March 1973

INTRODUCTION

This report is a compilation of information centers of computerized data bases and documents accessible to Region X on the following programs: Pesticides, Radiation, Solid Waste and Noise Abatement and Control.

Sections I, IIA, IIB, III and IV contain a brief overview of major data bases, documents and a listing of subject areas each data base and document cover. This report also includes the type of data system, methodology for making sampling analysis, type of computer system and sources of contact for information retrieval. The information included will provide the region with visibility of the ongoing activities of state, universities and other federal agencies. In addition to the compilation of program data reports, information was also received through telephone contacts with various organizations.

Most of the information services described in this report are now available for usage. There are others still in a developmental stage and are expected to be operational within a few months.

This report is the initial stage of developing a Comprehensive Management Information System in the Categorical Programs Division. Continued efforts will be made to update report status. As requirements dictate, new data bases will be added and subsequent information will be revised.

In scope, this report is provided as an additional resource for management effectiveness in program control. Because of the increasing

need for improving the accessibility of data, it is essential that we develop some means of conveying the various types of information systems available to the user. This is also important if we are to achieve a coordinated and integrated information system for all areas of environmental concern.

In view of the specialized knowledge required to respond to many questions, there is a frequent need for referring some inquiries to more specialized services. This report will provide referral service on specific types of data. To this extent, it will enable us to best respond to the inquiries we receive and to ascertain that the user is directed to the best information available for his need. Awareness of information availability is often lacking as a result of inappropriate or non-existent means of notification. The approaches presented in this report are geared to alleviate such communication gaps.

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PESTICIDES SURVEILLANCE DATA

Section I.

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
A. Pesticides Registration and Enforcement System	This system includes storing and retrieval capabilities of registration data (controls on distribution of pesticide poisons). Descriptive labels containing chemical ingredients of a formula and its approved practices for usage are received from manufacturer and reviewed.	IBM system 370/165 with minimum core of 65,000 bytes	Shiroishi, Ken, Chief Automated Systems Control Section EPA, Headquarters
B. Pesticide Accident Surveillance System (PASS)	This system provides information on pesticides episodes involving human, animal and environmental injury. Input to the system is received through regional pesticide reports and other systems such as STORET, community studies projects and PARCS. The background and impact of a pesticides episode are reported, together with significant facts from the investigation. Information derived from the program will be used primarily for accident prevention.	IBM system 360/50 Research Triangle Data System (RTDS)	Grandpierre, E.L.J., Director, Office of Program Development EPA, Headquarters Fry, Elgin, Chief, Technical Systems Staff EPA, Headquarters Donaldson, Donald A. Pesticide Accident Officer EPA, Region X
C. Pesticide Analysis Retrieval and Control System (PARCS)	This system centralizes information on pesticides to coordinate nationwide enforcement and analysis. System will combine Beltsville Systems to produce pesticides use data issued annually. Reports will provide general public and manufacturers with data on proper use, toxicity, and ingredients of pesticides. Manufacturer submits application to register pesticide. Analysis is performed on ingredients. If approved, pesticide data will enter system.	IBM system 370/155	Fry, Elgin, Chief, Technical System Staff EPA, Headquarters

Section I.

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
D. Pesticide Air Monitoring Data System	This system serves as a warning system for pesticide residue in the air of various localities of the U. S. Information provides a basis for corrective action and for research devising new methods of minimizing pesticide content of the atmosphere. Samples are collected by instrumentation at various sites. Information is recorded on specific kinds of pesticide identified, number of samples collected, etc., by site, stations, county and state.	Mark IV and IBM system 360/50 with minimum core of 100,000 bytes	Evans, Burton R., Director Division of Epidemiology EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga. Caras, Gus J., Chief, Data Management Section EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga. Yobbs, Anne R. M.D., Chief State Service Branch EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga. (404) 633-5262
E. Pesticide Human Monitoring Data System	This system provides information on the levels of pesticide residues found in human tissue of the general population throughout the U. S. Analysis includes the amount of pesticide residues found in human tissues. Data are collected at hospitals throughout the U. S. and sent to Chamblee Laboratory. The information is categorized by hospital, state, EPA region, Clinical diagnosis, type of specimen, race, sex, age, and interval.	IBM system 360/50 with minimum core of 200,000 bytes.	Evans, Burton R., Director Division of Epidemiology EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga. Caras, Gus J., Chief, Data Management Section EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga.
F. Pesticide Community Studies Data System	This system provides a comprehensive data base on health statistics of persons exposed to various pesticides. It is primarily concerned with age, occupation, location, sex, exposure time, degree of exposure and the type of safeguards used in handling pesticides. There are fourteen project stations over the U. S.; data is collected periodically and transferred to Chamblee for computerizing.	IBM system 360/50 with minimum core of 300,000 bytes	Evans, Burton R., Director Division of Epidemiology EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga. Caras, Gus J., Chief, Data Management Section EPA Lab, Chamblee, Ga.

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
G. National Soils Monitoring System	This system aids in maintaining a statistical data base on pesticide levels in the soil. Annual reports are presented on the Ecological Monitoring Branch. This is a national soil survey program; sampling sites were selected from the probability sample made some years earlier for the "Conservation Needs Inventory" (CNI). Information from CNI was used to establish two categories (1) cropland and (2) non-cropland.	IBM system 370/165 with a minimum core of 100,000 bytes	Wiersma, Bruce G., Head Monitoring Section EPA, Headquarters (301) 344-2156 Falkson, Susan, System Analyst, Data System Branch EPA, Headquarters
H. Pesticide Import File	This system provides information to the Pesticides Branch in answering all queries on pesticide products entering the U. S. through EPA Region X. This system is used in reviewing all new entries of pesticide products to discover trends and new products and to monitor foreign companies. Major informational elements are broker identification, product identification, cosignee or importers name, import entry number, products chemical name, and amount and value of shipment. The system consists of 36 records. Each record concerns a particular foreign manufacture or cosignee and contains a customs form (PR 171) on each pesticide product imported from that manufacture or cosignee.	Manual	Poss, Robert A., Chief, Pesticides Branch EPA Region X (206) 442-1090

Section I.

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
I. Pesticide Sampling Information System	Information from this system is used to compile monthly status reports to the Pesticide Enforcement Division at EPA Headquarters. Reference information is provided to aid in answering all types of queries on product and sampling. In addition, the system provides information for case review regarding enforcement action. Major informational elements are violator identification, product name and identification, sample identification and number, disposition of sample, reason for sample collection, and product dealer name and address. Data is received from a collection report initiated by a pesticide inspector when a sample of a pesticide product is collected. A copy of the report serves as the file record and the original is sent with the collected sample for laboratory analysis and disposition.	Manual	Poss, Robert A., Chief Pesticides Branch EPA Region X (206) 442-1090

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
A. National Environmental Radiation Data System (NERADS)	This system aids in monitoring the effects of radiation on humans and the environment by collecting and evaluating data on radiation levels in air, water and food. System is currently in a developmental stage and therefore no reports are being produced at this time. However, the planned efforts are to produce reports similar to the Radiological Health Data and Reports. Data in the system will include radionuclide results in water, air, soil, food, animals and plants as well as common sample and site identification and location description. All samples are expected to be analyzed in either of the two EPA radiation laboratories where results will be coded and sent to the Office of Radiation Programs for keypunching.	Data retrieval are expected to be controlled centrally. (no firm plans have been developed on the hardware and software specification)	Curry, Philip A., System Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters
B. Institutional Total Diet Sampling Network	This system aids in monitoring the radiation level of food served to 9 to 12 year olds in the U. S. Primary output of the system is sample analysis results which are included in a monthly report that lists sampling locations and the radionuclide level of sampled food. Major informational elements are sampling station identification and (continued on page 8)	14,000 records averaging 160 bytes per record. Programmed on Fortran. 20,000 bytes of core storage on the Food & Drug Administration IBM system 360/50	Curry, Philip A., System Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
	(continued from page 7) location and the levels of Strontium - 89, Strontium - 90, Iodine - 131, Cesium - 137, Barium - 140 and Potassium - 40. Food samples are collected from 28 institutions for children, such as orphanages and schools, under contract to EPA in 23 states. Complete meals for one child are collected for one week once each quarter. Samples are sent to the EPA laboratories in Las Vegas, Nevada and Montgomery, Alabama for analyses.		
C. Tritium Network	This system aids in protecting the U. S. public from consuming water containing harmful levels of tritium by monitoring random samples of ground and surface waters to establish statistical benchmarks to evaluate tritium levels. Principal output is sample analysis results from various reports on tritium level of water in various locations. Major informational elements include sample station identification and location, tritium content and error estimation. EPA and state officials collect samples for tritium analysis.	Manual (plans are being made to automate the system)	Curry, Philip A., Systems Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
D. Human Bone Network	This system is sample analysis results which are included in a quarterly report listing sample locations and the accumulated radionuclide level of the sampled human bones. Major informational elements are sample identification and location, Strontium - 90, calcium and bone type. Bone samples are collected from deceased persons or during surgery by federal and state agencies. These samples are sent to the EPA radiation laboratories in Las Vegas, Nevada and Montgomery, Alabama for analysis.	Food & Drug Administration IBM system 360/50 (system requires 20,000 bytes of storage)	Curry, Philip A., System Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters
E. Pasteurized Milk Network (PMN)	This system monitors the radiation level of samples of pasteurized milk to ensure that it is safe for U. S. consumption. There are various sampling stations, and sample analysis is performed at regular intervals to determine the radionuclide level. Major informational elements included in the network are sampling station identification, location and the levels of Strontium - 89, Strontium - 90, Iodine - 131, Cesium - 137, Barium - 140, and Potassium - 40. Monthly samples from 63 stations (at least one per state) are sent to either of the EPA radiation laboratories in Montgomery, Alabama or Las Vegas, Nevada where analysis is made.	IBM system 360/50 requiring 20,000 bytes of core for operation	Curry, Philip A., System Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
F. Air Data Management	This system provides air radioactivity information. Samples are taken daily from various locations. Two reports are prepared for internal use, a daily Air Report and a daily Gross Beta Report. Two reports are prepared for external use, a monthly Air Report and a monthly Gross Beta Radioactivity Concentration in Air summary. The daily Air Report lists frequency and quality of air samples by station numbers. It is used to monitor the regularity of reporting by station. Daily Gross Beta Results Reports are recorded, in picocuries per cubic meter, readings from each station by reporting number, name and location. The monthly Air Report lists all data from each station for the reporting period. Monthly Gross Beta Radioactivity Concentrations in Air summary gives the number of samples collected and the minimum, average and maximum concentrations in PCI/M**3 of each station. Twenty-four hour samples of airborne particulates from 21 Western states are collected daily at each active station on 4 inch diameter, glass filters at a flow rate of about 350 cubic meters of air per day. Samples are sent to NERC Las Vegas for analysis.	Programs written on COBOL and FORTRAN operating on AEC's CDC 6400 computer system, with a minimum core of 56,000 words	Curry, Philip A., System Analyst, Surveillance and Inspection Division EPA, Headquarters

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
G. Surveillance Data Management	This system presents data that is generated by the processing of environmental samples at the NERC Las Vegas laboratory. The data is used to analyze routine as well as special environmental samples for gross and specific alpha and beta counting, radio chemistry and gamma counting, specific radio chemistry and gamma counting with qualitative and quantitative special analysis. Information provided includes city, county, state, region, sample type, sample sub-type, lab number, collection date, collection time, location code, use code, and event.	Programs written on COBOL and operating on AEC's CDC 6400 with minimum core of 16,000 words	Snelling, Robert N., Chief, Data Acquisition and Analysis Branch NERC Las Vegas, Nevada Allison, George C., System Analyst, Data Acquisition and Analysis Branch NERC Las Vegas, Nevada
H. Standards Inventory System	This system consists of a current inventory on radioactive standards by isotopes. It is used to identify types of isotopes on hand, their remaining activity, and the amount used during the reporting period. A Quality Control Radioactive Standards Inventory is prepared monthly and contains a listing of all standards on inventory, ordered by isotope and arranged by amount of activity, quantity, number of dilutions, half-life since calibration, chemical form, supplier and grams used during the reporting period. A daily usage log is prepared monthly and contains the date an isotope was prepared for use, the requestor, type of isotope, dilution number, calibration date, amount used, chemical form, supplier and purpose.	Program written on FORTRAN and operating on AEC's CDC 6400 computer with minimum core of 45,000 words	Smiecinski, Ralph F., Chief Quality Control Services NERC Las Vegas, Nevada Dillon, James R., Systems Analyst, Data Acquisition and Analysis Branch NERC Las Vegas, Nevada

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
I. Eskimo Surveillance	This system aids Alaskan Eskimo health programs by establishing trends of individual Cesium - 137 ingested by location. Information data include sex, weight, CS-137 concentrations, radiation dose index and location. A IMC multichannel analyzes is used to obtain a gamma ray spectra tape from each Eskimo analyzed in conjunction with a personal history card. This data is basically used to monitor excessive exposure, develop trends and identify areas of excessive intake for possible corrective action.	Programs written on FORTRAN and operating on the AEC's CDC 6400 with a minimum core requirements of 10,000 words. The data base is maintained on cards.	Eckert, John A., Chief Dose Assessment NERC Las Vegas, Nevada Snelling, Robert N., Chief Data Acquisition and Analysis Branch NERC Las Vegas, Nevada

SUMMARY OF RADIATION SURVEILLANCE DATA REPORTS
REGION X

Section IIB.

ORGANIZATION	REPORT DESCRIPTION AND TYPE OF DATA COLLECTED	ANALYSIS FREQUENCY	CONTACT
1. AEC Research and Development (Hanford)	The purpose of this report is to present an evaluation of the effects of the radioactive waste management practices of all Hanford contractors. A revised format is currently being prepared to include surveillance analysis of concentration, as well as direct doses. Data collected: air, water, milk, Columbia River, gross beta and gross alpha. Surveillance analysis made on all possible means of direct doses to the human body.	Annually	Corley, Jack, Battelle Memorial Institute, Pacific N.W. Laboratories, Richland, WA 99352 (509) 942-3876
2. U. S. Navy Report, Bureau of Ships "Environmental Monitoring and Disposal of Radioactive Wastes From Nuclear-Powered Ships and Their Support Facilities"	This report assesses the effect on the environment of disposal of radioactive wastes originating from U. S. Naval propulsion plants and their support facilities and confirms that procedures used by the Navy to control discharges from U. S. Naval nuclear-powered ships and their support facilities are effective in protecting the environment and the health and safety of the general public. Data collected: Water (1) Liquid waste discharge in harbors, (2) Liquid waste discharge at sea, (3) Tritium, (4) Solid radioactive waste disposal, (5) Sediment Colbalt 60.	Annually	Weaver, Charles L., Acting Director, Division of Surveillance & Inspection EPA, Headquarters 301-443-3177 Naval Ship System Command Department of the Navy Washington, D. C. 20360 (301) 443-3177

ORGANIZATION	REPORT DESCRIPTION AND TYPE OF DATA COLLECTED	ANALYSIS FREQUENCY	CONTACT
3. U. S. Navy Report, Bureau of Ships "Disposal of Radioactive Wastes From U. S. Naval Nuclear-Powered Ships and Their Support Facilities"	This report assesses the effect on the environment of disposal of radioactive wastes originating from U. S. Naval nuclear-powered ships and their support facilities at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Data collected: Water (1) Liquid waste discharge in harbors, (2) Liquid waste discharge at sea, (3) Tritium, (4) Solid radioactive waste disposal, (5) Sediment Colbalt 60	Annually	Weaver, Charles L., Acting Director, Division of Surveillance & Inspection EPA, Headquarters 301-443-3177 Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Bremerton, Washington
4. Environmental Radiation Surveillance Report (Washington State)	The Health Services Division of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, in cooperation with many local, state and federal agencies, operates a state-wide program to monitor concentrations of radioactivity in the environment. This report includes analysis results of all samples collected during the period of July through June of each year. Effective July 1, 1972 a $15,000 EPA contract was approved for radiation surveillance in the State of Washington. Data collected: Columbia River surface water, air, milk and shellfish analysis, gross beta and alpha activities.	Quarterly and Annually	Moen, Arnold J., Head Radiation Control Program Washington St. Health Dept. P. O. Box 709, Olympia Airport, Olympia, WA 98501 (206) 753-3459

ORGANIZATION	REPORT DESCRIPTION AND TYPE OF DATA COLLECTED	ANALYSIS FREQUENCY	CONTACT
5. EPA, Office of Radiation Programs	This report includes data and reports provided to the Bureau of Radiological Health by federal agencies, State Health Department, universities and foreign governmental agencies. All EPA surveillance networks are included. Data collected: (1) Milk and food, (a) milk surveillance, (b) food and diet surveillance, (c) carbon-14 in total diet and milk; (2) Water, (a) gross radioactivity in surface water, (b) Interstate Carrier drinking water analysis, (c) Tritium surveillance system; (3) Air surveillance network; (4) Strontium-90 in human bone.	Monthly	Wieder, Samuel, Radiation Data Reports, ORP EPA, Headquarters (301) 443-4800
6. National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS)	The NRTS report is currently being published in Idaho; arrangements are being made to receive regular publication in this office. The State of Idaho has submitted a contract proposal to EPA; surveillance analysis data from the State is pending the results of this proposal. Data collected: Air surveillance network, milk surveillance, food and diet, water (surface, drinking), gross beta.	Annually or Semi-annually	Idaho
7. National Environmental Research Center (NERC)	NERC published a preliminary report on all data presented in the "Radiological Health Data and Reports." It analyzes all data collected by EPA agencies, prepare special radiation reports.	Continually	Tate, Dennis, NERC-LV, P. O. Box 15027, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114 (702) 736-2969

ORGANIZATION	REPORT DESCRIPTION AND TYPE OF DATA COLLECTED	ANALYSIS FREQUENCY	CONTACT
8. Environmental Surveillance Section, Surveillance Branch	This is a summary report on EPA Radiation surveillance networks in Region X from 1960 through 1971. Data collected: (1) Milk network, (2) Diet samples, (3) Carbon-14 in total diet and milk, (4) Tritium content of total diet and milk, (5) Radiation Alert Network, (6) Plutonium in airborne particulates, (7) Plutonium in precipitation, (8) Tritium in surface water, (9) Tritium in tap water, (10) Tritium analysis of precipitation, (11) Radiological analysis of Interstate Carrier water.	Special	Alton, David W., Chief Data and Reports, Surveillance & Inspection EPA, Headquarters (301) 443-3177

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
A. Solid Waste Information Retrieval System (SWIRS)	This system provides a comprehensive reference to publish international literature on solid waste management to speed technological transfer. Documents entered in SWIRS are drawn from international literature on solid waste management covering a core list of approximately 700 titles as well as primary and secondary periodical literature. Other sources include patent literature from the U. S. and eight foreign countries. Microfilm files are maintained to facilitate retrieval and copies of all documents stored in the library. A full citation, including english titles of foreign language documents, and informative abstract and key word index terms, is prepared for documents SWIRS computerized data bank. It contains information on 18,000 scientific and technical documents used for comprehensive literature searches.	IBM system 370/165 using WYLBUR software	Connolly, John A., Technical Information Officer, Technical Information Branch EPA, Headquarters
B. Solid Waste Grants Program	This system provides information on federal, state and demonstration grants programs. Progress records are maintained on all grant programs, identifying current status and termination dates. Information is maintained by state and county. A status of pending grants applications is also identified.	Manual	Hegdahl, Tobias A., Acting Chief, Solid Waste Management Branch, EPA Region X

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
C. Solid Waste Feedlot Data System	This system will provide historical data on major cattle feedlots in Region X. Main source of information includes the name of operation, geographic location, size of operation (in acreage), type, maximum number of heads and distance from watercourse. Records are maintained on public complaints and enforcement action taken. Primary output of the system is reports received from the Department of Agriculture of each state. This system is still in a developmental stage and scheduled to be complete the first quarter of FY 1974.	Manual	Wagner, Richard A., Biologist EPA Region X
D. Solid Waste Disposal Site Inventory (SWDSI)	This system provides the capability to monitor the status of solid waste disposal sites in Region X. Output includes site name, size and location (state and county grid). In addition, information is contained on environmental conditions of each site by identifying those sites with present or potential water pollution problems and by specifying whether active or non-active. System also identifies those sites that are currently under compliance schedules and the date compliance is to be completed. Information can be updated as desired (no surveillance program established at this time). SWDSI computerized data bank consists of four data files--Region X Mission 5000 information on sites under program as of July 1970 and three State files for Idaho, Oregon and Washington dumps.	IBM system 370/165 at NIH using WYLBUR software	Hegdahl, Tobias A., Acting Chief, Solid Waste Management Branch EPA Region X

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATA BASE DESCRIPTION/METHODOLOGY	COMPUTER SYSTEM TYPE	CONTACT
A. Noise Information Service	The data contained in this system are directly accessible from a remote terminal. This system aids noise abatement and research by disseminating abstracts and relevant information on noise studies to government agencies, private firms and general public to improve technology transfer. Output is information retrieved by EPA regions, NERCs and laboratories. Major information elements included in the system are author's name and address, english and foreign publication title, corporate source, index terms, source document identification. Foreign and domestic noise literature is being collected, evaluated and selected for system entry by Informatics, Inc., under contract to the Office of Noise Abatement and Control.	IBM system 360/65/50 System requires 180,000 bytes of core for operation	Bach, David C., Program Assistant, Office of Noise Abatement and Control EPA, Headquarters Hall, Marguerite L., Computer Specialist, Data Systems Branch EPA, Headquarters